

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15
ARA-10 ACDA-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DHA-02 L-03
H-02 /099 W

-----261331Z 054318 /42

O 261057Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4381

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 08719

USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG/DR. OWEN POST-MEETING REMARKS

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS MADE TO THE PRESS BY
AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN FOLLOWING
THEIR BREAKFAST MEETING IN LONDON MAY 26.

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

OWEN: AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS, AS YOU KNOW, COME OVER HERE
AND WE HAVE JUST HAD A VERY INTERESTING CHAT AND I MUST
SAY IT IS, FOR ME, THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE MET. IT IS A
GREAT PLEASURE. AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
ON A WHOLE RANGE OF PROBLEMS DEALING IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA. HE HAS JUST COME BACK, AS I HAVE BEEN IN SOUTH
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AFRICA. HE HAS BEEN IN MAPUTO AND TALKED TO MANY OF
THE BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED
THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA AND HOW WE GET AN INDE-
PENDENT TRANSITION PEACEFULLY TO MAJORITY RULE IN
ZIMBABWE. BUT YOU HAVE HEARD ME SPEAK AN AWFUL LOT,
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE A WORD FROM AMBASSADOR
YOUNG, BUT JUST TO SAY TO HIM, HE IS VERY WELCOME IN

THIS COUNTRY AND I HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED OUR CHAT.

YOUNG: THANKS A LOT. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE SENSE IS AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF AGREEMENT, CERTAINLY TOTAL AGREEMENT ON OBJECTIVES AND A WILLINGNESS TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS AND SEVERAL CONTINGENCY PLANS THAT WILL PREPARE US FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

OWEN: CORRECT.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORT NOT CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE 50 CUBAN ADVISERS IN ETHIOPIA. HOW DO YOU REGARD THAT IN TERMS OF YOUR MISSION TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN AFRICA?

YOUNG: WELL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THAT. I GUESS THAT IS WHAT I SHOULD DO TOO. (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION: DOES THAT COME FROM THE HEART?

YOUNG: NO, IT REALLY DOESN'T. BECAUSE THEY ARE KILLING PEOPLE RIGHT AND LEFT AND I GUESS I THINK MAYBE THE CUBANS MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE RATIONAL THAN THE ETHIOPIANS AT THIS POINT. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THEY ADVISE. IF CUBAN ADVISERS CAN STOP THE KILLING IT MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD THING, IF CUBAN ADVISERS ESCALATE THE KILLING, IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE.

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QUESTION: AMBASSADOR, HOW DO YOU RATE THE CHANCES OF INTERNAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AFTER YOUR TRIP?

YOUNG: VERY SLOW, BUT INEVITABLE.

QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SUGGESTED TO THE BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS THEY SHOULDN'T REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE IN PURSUING THEIR OBJECTIVE OF INTERNAL CHANGE?

YOUNG: NO I DIDN'T. I SUGGESTED THAT I THOUGHT VIOLENCE WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION AND I DISCOURAGED VIOLENCE AT EVERY OPOORTUNITY. I DID NOT FEEL AS THOUGH IN THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, WHERE THINGS HAVE GONE MUCH FURTHER AND WHERE THERE IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SITUATION, I DIDN'T FEEL AS THOUGH I COULD TAKE THE MORAL AUTHORITY OF TELLING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEIR INDEPENDENCE. I THINK THAT IN ADDITION TO MORAL REASONS IN SOUTH AFRICA THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF TACTICAL REASONS THAT

MAKE VIOLENCE JUST IMPOSSIBLE.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ARE VERY

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NERVOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS OF A SUCCESS IN RHODESIA?

YOUNG: I THINK YOU HAVE TO BE, NOT ABOUT SUCCESS, BUT
I THINK I AM NERVOUS ABOUT ALL OF THE THINGS THAT CAN
HAPPEN. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS I AM ENCOURAGED BY,
THOUGH, IS THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS I THINK THE
UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED AS IS THE UNITED KINGDOM
TO STICK WITH THE SITUATION, AND I AM SURE ULTIMATELY
WE WILL PREVAIL. BUT ANYBODY THAT WASN'T A BIT ANXIOUS
ABOUT IT WOULD BE VERY NAIVE.

QUESTION: ARE YOU STANDING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE

BRITISH ON RHODESIA OR A LITTLE WAY BEHIND THEM?

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YOUNG: WELL, IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO. I THINK WHEN WE ARE TALKING TO EACH OTHER WE ARE SIDE BY SIDE, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE COMMITMENT THERE. BUT I THINK THAT OBVIOUSLY MAKES THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS A LITTLE UNEASY BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS AS A SUPERPOWER KIND OF ENTRY INTO THE SITUATION. AND SO WE MIGHT PROBABLY HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT. THEY ARE VERY ANXIOUS, THOUGH, ALSO TO HAVE US INVOLVED. IT IS A TOUCHY KIND OF THING RIGHT NOW, BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT WE ARE ON BOARD AND ANYBODY CAN DEFINE IT ANY WAY THEY WANT TO, FRANKLY.

OWEN: I THINK IT IS THE REALITY THAT MATTERS, NOT THE WORDS.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR, YOU HAVE BEEN IN POWER FOR THREE MONTHS....

YOUNG: NOT IN POWER (LAUGHTER).

QUESTION: YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT (LAUGHTER), AND SOME AFRICANS ARE LOOKING TO CALL YOU AN UNCLE TOM, BUT THAT MAY BE DIFFERENT. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT THE BYRD AMENDMENT IN THOSE THREE MONTHS?

YOUNG: WELL, WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY REPEALED IT.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE?

YOUNG: YES, IN THE FIRST 45 DAYS.

QUESTION: DO YOU SHARE THE REV. SITHOLE'S VIEW THAT AS LONG AS MR. SMITH REMAINS AS PRIME MINISTER THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET A SETTLEMENT?

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YOUNG: I THINK THAT RIGHT NOW IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO HAVE A VIEW ON A SETTLEMENT. I THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SETTLEMENT. NOW HOW IT COMES ABOUT, I THINK, REMAINS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS

TO DEVELOP. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT FOR US TO
HAVE A SETTLEMENT OVER TELEVISION OR IN THE NEWSPAPERS
BUT TO HAVE A SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

QUESTION: MR. YOUNG, YOU TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE
A CERTAIN NUMBER OF REMARKS ABOUT RACISM IN THIS COUNTRY.
WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THOSE REPEATED REMARKS?

YOUNG: THE PURPOSE OF THOSE WAS THAT ONE OF YOUR BBC
REPORTERS WAS TAUNTING ME, AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. WAS
THE ONLY ONE THAT HAD ANY RACE PROBLEMS. AND I JUST
SAID...I WOULDN'T LET HIM OFF THE HOOK. I THINK IT
IS A PERVASIVE PROBLEM, AND I THINK IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE
AND THERE IS NOTHING JUDGMENTAL ABOUT IT. THEY ARE
PROBLEMS OF CULTURE AND RACIAL DIFFERENCES ALL OVER
THE WORLD IN SOME FORM.

QUESTION: DID YOU THINK YOU EXPLOITED YOUR OWN RACISM
WHILE YOU WERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

YOUNG: A LITTLE BIT, BUT NOT MUCH. I SAY A LITTLE BIT,
BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY I CAN'T IDENTIFY WITH THE
BLACKS, BUT ACTUALLY I SPENT FAR MORE TIME WITH WHITES
BECAUSE I THINK THEY HAVE THE PROBLEM. THEY HAVE IN A
SENSE GIVEN UP AND THEY ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING AND I
SAW MY MISSION THERE NOT AS ENCOURAGING BLACKS, BUT
ENCOURAGING WHITES THAT THEY COULD TAKE CONTROL OF
THEIR SITUATION AND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE REASONA-
BLE CHANGE. THEY DIDN'T JUST HAVE TO SIT BACK AND WAIT
AND FIGHT TO THE DEATH, THEY COULD IN FACT WORK TO LIVE.

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QUESTION: DO YOU THINK MULTIRACIALISM IS A FEASIBLE
POSSIBILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

YOUNG: OH, IT CERTAINLY IS. EVEN IN PLACES LIKE
MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, THERE IS A STRANGE KIND OF
MULTIRACIALISM WHICH PERSISTS, EVEN IN THOSE CULTURES,
AND THAT IS WITH MANY OF THE WHITES RUNNING IN FEAR.
I THINK THAT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE INEVITABLY MOST OF
THE WHITES WILL STAY, INEVITABLY THEY WILL HAVE A
MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY ONE OF THESE DAYS.

OWEN: OKAY, I RECKON WE HAVE HAD IT. LAST ONE.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, YOU WERE QUOTED AS SAYING
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YESTERDAY THAT YOU WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD FIND IN
DR. OWEN A NEW TYPE OF ENGLISHMAN DEVOID OF COLONIAL
MENTALITY. I WONDER AS LONG AS THE TWO OF YOU ARE HERE
SIDE BY SIDE, IF YOU COULD EVALUATE DR. OWEN FOR
US?

OWEN: FIRSTLY, I AM A WELSHMAN (LAUGHTER).

YOUNG: I THINK THIS HAS BEEN... I DIDN'T SAY, WELL,
LET ME NOT APOLOGISE, LET ME JUST SAY IT HAS BEEN A
WONDERFUL MORNING AND WE HAVE HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION
AND I AM VERY PLEASED WITH MEETING DR. OWEN, AND VERY
PLEASED THAT HE IS DIRECTING THE SOUTHERN AFRICA
PROGRESS.

OWEN: SAME FOR ME. O KAY? THANKS A LOT.

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